

November 1, 2021

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## Action in the House of Representatives



### Aloha mai kākou!

President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda will take decisive action on the climate crisis, create millions of good-paying jobs, enable more Americans to join and remain in the labor force, and grow our economy from the bottom up and the middle out. In Washington, as we continue to move forward to enact President Biden's agenda, I am doing my best to ensure the specific needs of our islands are included.

We are very close to advancing this package to correct the imbalance in our economy, provide for our keiki, protect our kūpuna and unburden working families across our nation.

*Me ka ha'a ha'a (with humility),*  
Kai

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### H.J. Res. 55 Earns First Hearing in Committee

My bill, H.J. Res. 55: the Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Protecting Family Legacies Act, earned its first hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.J. Res. 55 would ensure long-term tenancy to beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commissions Act (HHCA) and their successors by reducing the successorship qualification of a lessee's spouse, children, grandchildren and brothers or sisters from one quarter to one thirty-second Hawaiian.

The next step for this legislation is a markup by the full Natural Resources Committee.

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## Health, Sustainability and Community

### Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

I met with leadership from the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center to discuss Native Hawaiian Health, efforts to help vaccinate kūpuna and other residents in the community, and their new Teaching Health Center and certification program to encourage local enrollment and future employment of Native Hawaiians and other residents in the Health field.



### Supporting Build Back Better on the House Floor

No one should be priced out of the health care they need, or be forced to fundraise their own medical expenses. I spoke on the House floor on the transformative health care benefits Democrats are fighting for in the Build Back Better Act.

[WATCH HERE](#)



### Serving our LGBTQ Veterans Act

I introduced the Serving Our LGBTQ Veterans Act to create a Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The center would address the unique challenges LGBTQ veterans face and break down the long-standing barriers that prevent access to their benefits.

As LGBTQ History Month comes to an end, our work to support these veterans must continue.

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### Ma'o Farms

I visited Ma'o Farms in Wai'anae one of the largest certified organic farms in Hawai'i, to preview the new post-harvest processing facility designed to be energy and water efficient and meet the highest federal food safety standards.

The new facility and overall expansion efforts will also enable MA'O to expand their work as an effective intervention to bolster college enrollment, retention, and attainment, while equipping youth with practical and leadership skills and knowledge to succeed in the workplace and beyond.



### Hanona

Non-profits like Hanona on Maui are dedicated to providing cultural learning opportunities for our communities.

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Hanona almost \$750,000 in funding under the Education of Native Hawaiians Program which will further their mission to retain Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge.



## Filipino American Heritage Month



The history and significant contributions of Filipino Americans in the Americas predates the United States itself. It is my privilege to serve over 210,000 Filipino Americans in the State of Hawai'i which holds the highest population percentage of Filipino Americans in the U.S.

To our Filipino American 'ohana in Hawai'i and across the country, maraming salamat po and Happy Filipino American Heritage Month!

[WATCH HERE](#)

## Conversations with Kai

### Air Force Undersecretary Gina Ortiz Jones

On this month's episode of **Conversations with Kai**, Gina Ortiz Jones, Under Secretary to the Department of the Air Force, joined me in the studio to discuss workforce diversity and inclusion, vaccination efforts, and emerging threats to our national security.

As a first generation Filipina American and the first openly gay person of color to serve as Under Secretary, she brings a unique, and long overdue perspective to our Armed Forces.

[WATCH HERE](#)



E mālama pono iā 'oe! Please take care!  
Reach out to me and my staff at the numbers below or visit my website, [kahele.house.gov](http://kahele.house.gov) if we can assist you in any way.

Mahalo!



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